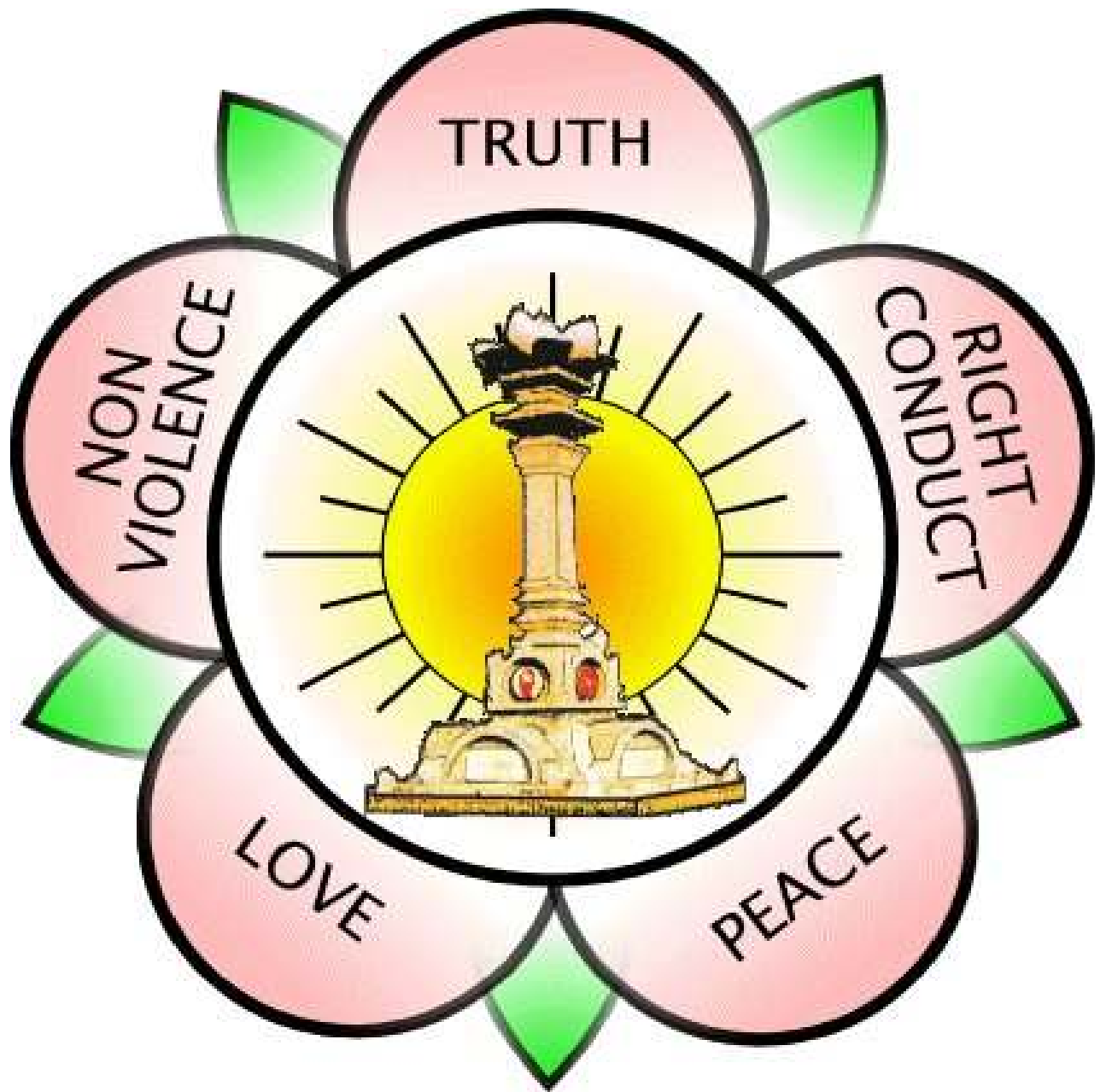


Human Values - Truth



How many fingers do we have on each hand? Five, right? In the same way, in order to live a happy life, we should practice five virtues. These are:

- **TRUTH**
- **LOVE**
- **PEACE**
- **RIGHT ACTION**
- **NON-VIOLENCE**

These five basic values are essential for every one, just like the fingers of a hand! It would be hard to grasp a ball if we were missing a finger, wouldn't it? In the same way, it is hard to be peaceful if we don't have love. Each value works together.

Similarly, the education of these five basic values helps in building a character, and that leads to become a good citizen. There are tens and hundreds of sub-values for each of these basic values, and we will learn some of them in our Bal Vikas classes.

Today's lesson is on -

Human Value: *Truth*

Sub Value: *Honesty – having people always believe you*

Objective: *Honesty is important to good behavior and human relationships*

Quotation: *“Honesty is the best policy”*

Story – The boy who cried “Wolf! Wolf!”

There once was a shepherd boy who was tending the sheep for the villagers. He became bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep, running rabbits, and flying butterflies. He thought about the animals that lived in the forest that surrounded the meadow, and remembered the stories the villagers told about the wolves that killed the sheep. He shuddered by that thought. He wondered if the villagers would come to his aid if he called out like they had told him. He thought he would test them.

“Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!” he called out. His voice echoed through the hills. Immediately, the men in the near by fields grabbed shovels and pitch forks and ran to the shepherd's aid. But there was no Wolf. “Don't cry Wolf, shepherd boy”, said the villagers, “when there is no Wolf!” They went grumbling back down the hill for their chores. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.

The shepherd boy liked the attention he got and the next day when he became bored again he called out “Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!” To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away. When there was no wolf the second time also, they scolded the shepherd boy before returning to their work. But the boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.

The third day the shepherd sat counting the sheep. A wolf came out of the forest and stalked a lamb. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and called out “Wolf! Wolf!” No one came this time. The villagers thought the boy was trying to fool them again, and so they didn’t come for his aid. The wolf carried the lamb into the forest.

At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy had not returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping there. “There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, “Wolf!” Why didn’t you come when I called?” the boy cried. “A wolf has taken a sheep.”

“We didn’t believe you,” a villager replied. “Now you must work in the fields to repay for the lost sheep.”

Moral: Nobody believes a liar ... even when he or she is telling the truth.

Questions:

- Why did the shepherd cry “Wolf Wolf!” when there was not one?
- Why didn’t the villagers come when he called “Wolf” the third time?
- Are villagers happy with the boy when they saw no Wolf? Why?
- Do you think crying “Wolf” when there is not one is the same as telling a lie?
- What does honesty mean?
- What was the consequence of the shepherd’s lie?
- Do people believe a liar? Why?
- What did you learn from this story?

Sub Value: *Truthfulness (always telling the truth)*

Objective: *One should understand the importance of telling the truth, not to tell lies, and listen to one’s own conscience.*

Quotation: *“Truth Always Triumphs”*

Story – Woodcutter and the Angel

There is no equal to truthfulness. God loves children who are true and we should not lie for any reason.

Once there lived a poor woodcutter. Though he was poor he was a very sincere and straightforward man. He used to go across a river every day, to a forest on the other bank to cut trees for firewood and sell it to make a livelihood.

He used to carry an iron axe with him for cutting the wood. One evening he was returning home after sunset. As he was very tired that day, he dropped his iron axe accidentally while crossing the river. He reached the other side of the riverbank and sat down cursing his fate.

Suddenly, an angel appeared before him and enquired the reason for his sadness. The woodcutter informed her about the loss of his iron axe without which he could not survive. The angel felt sorry and wanted to help him. She dived into the water and brought out a golden axe. She gave it to the woodcutter, but he refused to accept it, as it did not belong to him. She dived once again and this time brought out a silver axe. The woodcutter refused once again, as this also did not belong to him. Finally, she dived and brought out the iron axe, which was readily accepted by the woodcutter, as it was his property.

Appreciating his truthfulness, the angel presented the woodcutter with all the three axes. He was very happy, thanked the angel and returned home. He narrated the incident to his wife who in turn told her neighbors. One of them, who heard the story, grew jealous and wanted to have all the axes likewise. He too went to the river, dropped his iron axe on purpose, sat on the bank and began to moan about the loss. To his surprise the angel appeared and enquired about his cause for worry. He replied that he lost his axe while crossing the river. The angel consoled him, dived into the water and fetched a golden axe. When the angel offered the golden axe to him, he greedily accepted and complained that he had a silver one and an iron one too. After hearing this, the angel became very angry and disappeared with the golden axe, because he was dishonest and greedy. The dishonest man did not get back even his iron axe.

Moral: Truth is supreme and remains a treasure of an honest person. A lie may get you an immediate gain, which encourages you tell more lies, but in the end a liar always gets punished.

Questions:

- What happened to the first woodcutter's axe?
- What did angel do the first and second time?
- What was the wood cutter's answer?
- What did the second woodcutter do with his axe?

Daily Slokas:

Ganesh Sloka

*Vakra Tunda Mahaa Kaaya; Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva; Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa*

Saraswati Stotra

*Saraswathi Namasthubyam; Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami; Siddhir Bhavatume Sada*

Guru Stotra

*Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu; Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma; Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah*

Vishun Stotra:

*Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam
Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye*

Rama Mantra:

*Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame
Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane*

Durga Stotra:

*Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike
Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute*

Hanuman Mantra:

*Manojavam Maarutatulyavegam; Jitendriyam Buddhimataam Varistham
Vaataatmajam Vaanarayoothamukhyam; Sriramadootam Sirasa Namami*

Matru Devo Bhava Sloka:

*Maathru Devo Bhava; Pitru Devo Bhava
Acharya Devo Bhava; Athidhi Devo Bhava*

Morning Prayers:

*Karaagre Vasate Lakshmi; Kara Madhye Saraswathi
Kara Moole Tu Govinda; Prabahate Kara Darshanam*

*Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Saraswati,
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri jalesmin sannidhim kuru*

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

C F K O L

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B G A R

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O N I R

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Coloring Exercise:

